

OLC 72-0276

10 MAR 1972

**The Honorable Joe L. Evins
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515**

My dear Mr. Evins:

In response to your letter of 18 February, I enclose a copy of the White House press release announcing the President's directive on the reorganization of the U. S. intelligence community dated 5 November 1971 as a basis for the response to questions 1 and 3 set forth in your letter. I believe this makes clear that there is no intention either to add an additional level of supervisory personnel to Central Intelligence Agency operations, or to relieve me from my duties as head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

As explained in the announcement, these Presidential decisions are designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the U. S. foreign intelligence community. For this purpose an enhanced leadership role has been given to the Director of Central Intelligence, who is now charged with preparing and presenting a consolidated intelligence program budget to the President. I will be advised in the preparation of this consolidated budget by the Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee, which I chair. This Committee is composed of senior representatives from the Departments of State and Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The management changes directed by the President will provide a more effective coordinating mechanism within the intelligence community and are clearly consistent with the provisions of the National Security Act

CRC, 10/22/2003

of 1947. You may recall that prior to this new order, I coordinated the end product of the intelligence process, but exercised only limited influence on the budgets of the several national intelligence agencies.

As for question 2 in your letter regarding the matter of congressional briefings, the procedures followed by the Central Intelligence Agency are longstanding and are responsive to the requests and requirements of the congressional leadership. I might add that at no time since becoming Director have I failed to respond to a request for my appearance before a congressional committee on any matter within my competence and within the committee's purview.

Contrary to the press reports to which you make reference in question 4, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 was an example of how across-the-board analysis by the intelligence community--which was comprehensive in its scope and intensive in its concentration--provides a real benefit to the policymaker. Within the year I had occasion to discuss this point in an address before the American Society of Newspaper Editors. I enclose a copy of that address, on pages nine and ten of which intelligence support in the Cuban missile crisis is covered in some detail.

The seizure of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans on 2 December 1968 presents a totally different question. The USS Pueblo was a naval vessel commanded by a naval officer and the information that the Pueblo was tasked to gather during this mission was of tactical and departmental interest to the U. S. Navy. Neither this Agency nor I personally had anything to do with the voyage of the USS Pueblo, the ship itself, or any of its crew. The question of information available concerning the intentions of the North Koreans and dangers of possible interference with the vessel's mission are detailed in the report of the Special Subcommittee on the USS Pueblo of the Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives (H. Report 91-912), entitled "Inquiry into the USS Pueblo and EC-121 Plane Incidents."

I appreciate your letter and the chance to respond directly to you on these matters.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Richard Helms
Director

Enclosures

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OLC/JGO:mmmc (6 March 1972)